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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] for 5 minutes.

### VOTE "NO" ON H.R. 1270

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address this Chamber as well as all America on an issue that is extremely important to all of us, and that is the issue of nuclear waste.

In a recent advertisement, in fact, an advertisement paid for by the nuclear energy lobbyists, it appeared in the Congressional Daily, dated September 22, 1997, and I quote, "Thanks to nuclear energy, the air in Maine and New Hampshire is cleaner." The ad goes on to say, "Since nuclear powerplants don't burn anything to generate electricity, they do not pollute the air."

Well, Mr. Speaker, if nuclear energy is as environmentally safe an energy source as they claim it to be, then why do they not store the wastes associated with those nuclear energy plants in their own States?

Why not keep that nuclear waste safely stored at nuclear powerplants throughout the country, as this claim advertises, and let me say, generating electricity with nuclear energy produces a small amount of used nuclear fuel. Today this used fuel is safely stored at 109 nuclear powerplants throughout the country.

The headline, Mr. Speaker, should read, "Thanks to nuclear energy, innocent people all across this country will be put at risk as 80,000 tons or more of nuclear waste is transported through their communities."

Mr. Speaker, the American people should say thanks, but no thanks. I urge my colleagues to understand the facts, that as nuclear waste is transported through their communities, Americans are put at risk, and I urge them to get the facts on nuclear waste. I urge them to vote "no" on H.R. 1270.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the ad from National Journal's CongressDaily.

THANKS TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE AIR IN  
MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE IS CLEANER

Nuclear energy provides electricity to millions of people in Maine, New Hampshire and throughout America, and because nuclear plants don't burn anything to generate electricity, they don't pollute the air.

### BUT WHAT ABOUT THE WASTE?

Generating electricity with nuclear energy produces a small amount of used nuclear fuel. Today, this used fuel is safely stored at 109 nuclear power plants throughout the country. However, the government has the legal responsibility to dispose of this waste beginning January 31, 1998.

H.R. 1270 would move used nuclear fuel to a single, engineered storage facility at a remote desert location. It's a common-sense strategy that will ensure nuclear energy continues to provide electricity to Maine and New Hampshire and nationwide for years to come.

H.R. 1270: Act Now On Nuclear Waste Disposal.

### PROVIDING FLEXIBILITY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ISSUES OF TRANSPORTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. BLUMENAUER] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a weekend visit

to the metropolitan areas of Seattle and Miami, where I had an opportunity to visit with a wide array of individual citizen activists, academics, journalists, government officials, health professionals, people who are struggling with a variety of issues to make their communities livable.

I was struck, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that those conversations were identical in those two communities, separated by our continent, and in fact would be indistinguishable from conversations that I have in my own hometown of Portland, OR.

They are wrestling with notions of public safety, affordable housing, water resources, open space, how to make the most out of scarce land use resources, and, most of all, the defining issue they felt was one of transportation.

It was a timely series of conversations, Mr. Speaker, because we are now dealing with the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act. Six years ago the Federal Government entered into a new era of partnership with ISTEA, a new way of thinking about transportation, of providing flexibility and community involvement.

Stories from all across America attest to the success of this visionary process. We are now about to begin the next stage with the reauthorization.

Congress has the opportunity to build upon this solid foundation. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that we in Congress not be bogged down on some of the details that are not unimportant, that seem to be swirling about the issue. We need to be aware of the questions regarding donor and donee States, and continue to make progress toward more equitable and fair distribution.

We need to be aware of the conflicts between individual motorists and the trucking industry, understanding their issues as well.

But it is critical that we not be engaged in some sort of zero sum game,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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